



Somsen horizon

Volume 19 – number 30 – July 2016

- ◆ *Worldwide Reunion in 2017?
We urgently need assistance!*
- ◆ *Family Weekend Traditions*
- ◆ *The threshing machine of Bennie
Somsen from Lintelo*
- ◆ *Tractor Festival*
- ◆ *A Somsen from Aalten in
wartime, 1940 - 1945*
- ◆ *Granddaughters to be proud:
Bente and Hedda*
- ◆ *Roelof Somsen (1808-1891)
received a distinction in 1832*
- ◆ *Father is waiting at Schiphol
for his son on his last flight*
- ◆ *Somsen-Lenselink couple
married for 60 years*
- ◆ *Ben Somsen: unforgettable*
- ◆ *Family Announcements*



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Colophon

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Contents

page

Board, advisors, colophon, objective and contents	2
Preface	3
Worldwide Reunion in 2017? We urgently need assistance!	3
Family Weekend Traditions	4
The threshing machine of Bennie Somsen from Lintelo	6
Tractor Festival	8
A Somsen from Aalten in wartime, 1940 - 1945	10
Granddaughters to be proud: Bente and Hedda	13
Roelof Somsen (1808-1891) received a distinction in 1832	15
Father is waiting at Schiphol for his son on his last flight	16
Somsen-Lenselink couple married for 60 years	17
Ben Somsen: unforgettable	18
Family announcements	20

Objective of the Foundation

The aim of the foundation is:

To preserve and promote the solidarity between people bearing the family name of Somsen, those who are/were related to them or those who are interested in them

The foundation will try to achieve this object for example by:

- ◆ doing historical research into the family history and the history of the region
- ◆ collecting documentation and genealogical data
- ◆ keeping and taking charge of a family archive and data bases
- ◆ publishing a periodical
- ◆ providing information to persons, institutions and official authorities
- ◆ organising activities so as to realise the object of the foundation



Cover photo

Family tree

Preface



Johan Somsen

The issue of Somsen Horizon that you are holding now deserves your particular interest in a number of ways. First, it is quite a milestone this 30th issue. Who would have ever have imagined when we started with our publications in 1998 that we would publish so many magazines and also a number of newsletters.

A Worldwide Somsen Reunion in Netherlands in 2017?

A lot has happened in the years behind us and some special highlights in it were the Worldwide Somsen Reunions. In 1997 and 2007 in The Netherlands and in 2002 and 2012 in The United States. And according to the schedule there would be a reunion in The Netherlands in 2017. In the last Newsletter, however, I already pointed out that the current Board this no longer capable of organizing this mainly because of advanced ages. In fact, four of us have made known to stop with their work on the Board in 2017.

Fortunately we have a representative of a younger generation within our Board in the person of Oscar Somsen and he is prepared to put his energy into it. But then he definitively needs help from a number of people who want to work together with him to organize a reunion. In the latest newsletter I paid extensive attention to this matter and also appealed for help.



Oscar Somsen

Therefore you will once again find a call from Oscar in this issue to help organizing the reunion.

If there is not sufficient support it cannot be ruled out that we should give up a reunion but this is not yet an issue at the moment. Please think seriously about it or look around within your family circle. Maybe there are people who are prepared to help with the organization. It's not too late!

Johan Somsen [1089]



Pictures reunion 2007

Worldwide Reunion in 2017? We urgently need assistance!

In the last Newsletter you have probably read that we are looking for help to organize a Somsen Reunion in The Netherlands next year. With this 4th Reunion we hope to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Somsen Foundation.



American participants in New Ulm 2012, 1851 branch

This is a one-time event. Also a wonderful opportunity to meet each other once again. In addition to the pioneers maybe the next generation will be curious about their family. The Reunion is held every five years in The Netherlands and in The United States of America alternatively. August 2017 will be our turn again. American family members are looking forward to it and have already asked for information.



All participants New Ulm Reunion 2012

Of course we hope to organize a nice reunion and make something fun and interesting out of it. But the Board is largely getting on in years and not able to organize this alone. A very small group started thinking about it but they cannot do this without your help. At this moment there is an urgent need for volunteers who want to think along with us. We will probably confer a couple of times to make a concrete plan.

Without your help the reunion cannot be held. So please contact Oscar Somsen [2040] or one of the other Board members (this can be done through info@somsen.org) and help make this great event possible again.

In 2007 the reunion took place in a riding school in IJzerlo, let us refreshen your memory!



Family Weekend Traditions

by Oscar Somsen [2040]

Unfortunately during our Family Weekend there was no time for a collective visit to our Lime Tree, planted during the first World Wide Reunion in 1997. Being a seeker for tradition we decided on a private pilgrimage. On Saturday, August 22, 2015, we arrived in IJzerlo a few hours before the planned barbecue. Our first destination was Regelinkweg, the location of our great tree. As usual it was easy to spot the tree from the road. It was standing beautifully as ever in the middle of the field. We decided to be brave and step into the garden to see if we could meet the caretakers. And yes, they were sitting on the porch enjoying the sunny afternoon. They had indeed mowed the field and polished the sign to prepare for anyone who might wish to visit the tree before joining the barbecue.



Family Lime Tree

Our second visit was one road further to the location of our plaque that commemorates the location where our common ancestor plowed the swampy land and adopted its name. Fortunately we remembered to bring some cleaning utensils since this plaque does not have an actual caretaker. Passing by the farm of our namesake we found it in good condition and standing nicely near the corn field but, indeed, the birds had left some unwanted drop-

pings. Apparently it doubles as a nice landing place. Some rinsing followed and after a few moments it was presentable once again. Not again shining since, unfortunately, we did not bring any polish with us.



Somsen Plaque. Ready for a Cleaning Job

A short walk took us to the Somsenhuus down the road. It used to have a wooden sign on the wall which had been quite dirty over past few years. Unfortunately it was gone now. Maybe good to offer to place a new one when we will, hopefully, be having another great reunion in two years.

Satisfied to have visited these special places once again we went onwards to our final destination for the day. A small but enthusiastic group arrived at the end of the sunny afternoon to enjoy the family BBQ. Nice talking again about events in the far and recent past of our common roots.



Our Final Destination. The BBQ

The threshing machine of Bennie Somsen [516] from Lintelo

by Harry Somsen [146]

Benardus (Bennie) Somsen is the son of Fredrik Jan Somsen [508] from the farm 't Navis at the Brakenweg 5 in Lintelo. He is a farmer with a lot of technical skills. At the back of his farmhouse which faces the road we read the year 1892. There is a picture of this farm on page 171 of the Somsen book *Omnes Generationes*.



Threshing machine B. Somsen from Lintelo

Bennie (born 1941) is a retired farmer now who still does a lot of work on his agricultural land. The love for his job and the history of farming still play an important role. Thus, Bennie purchased and refurbished an old threshing machine. At fairs and harvest festivals in the region it is a glorious focus of interest and it attracts a lot of attention when it is in use.



Threshing machine with tractor

This threshing machine was powered then by a tractor.

Bennie about this: *"In the past, here on the sandy soils every farmer cultivated grain, mainly rye and oats. As a child I found that the most*

beautiful period, harvesting in July and August and then in winter the threshing. The largest threshing machine that our father had was a small German machine. I was very interested in it and that interest has always remained. I was born in 1941 and with this machine my father threshed from about 1935 to 1958. Before 1940 with a Deutz petrol engine and later with an electric engine of seven and a half h.p. manufactured by Heemaf (Hengelosche first electric engines and machine factory).

From 1958 harvesting businesses came with much larger machines and that lasted until about 1970 when the combine (combine harvester) completely took over, which made the threshing machine completely unnecessary. An era was closed."

"We stopped dairy farming in 1997 and pigs disappeared too. We have since been farmers growing crops and once again I went looking for my old love. That was a threshing machine, a so called "dorsmölle", in the dialect of our region. I found out that there was one in Mechelen, which had been imported from former Eastern Germany near the place Perleberg by a couple of guys. Fortunately the machine was for sale because they thought it did not run well but when I saw it I had a different opinion. It was exactly what I was looking for, a farmer's model of the German brand Fricke from a factory in the city of Lamspringe.

After a facelift it has worked again for 17 years and so far trouble-free and that for a 75-year-old machine", Bennie said.



Fricke threshing mill

Next to the threshing machine they put a flat wagon that is packed with sheaves of oats or rye. These sheaves are picked up with a pitchfork and with a firm swing they are thrown on top of the threshing machine. There the ropes that keep the sheaves together are removed and the sheaves are put into the threshing machine. The threshing machine separates the

oats or rye roughly into three parts: seeds, chaff and straw. Of course, nowadays the workers around the threshing machine are dressed in the clothing that was worn decades ago. Then it was the duty of the neighbours to help. Now it is pure nostalgia for the elderly among us and the "harvesters" have a lot of fun in bringing back the old times and in demonstrating their threshing.



People threshing

Similarly in Dale. There was a show of oats threshing in the old fashioned way. It was held at



Henk Somsen [519]

Fukkinks Timpken at the Aladnaweg Romienendal 3 in Aalten on Saturday 28 September 2013 and the weather conditions were ideal. A flat car was packed with the bound oats. In the warmth of the bright sun and under the clear blue sky volunteers worked hard dressed in farmer's clothes, caps on their heads and the red farmer's handkerchief around their necks. The threshing machine was again the one owned by Bennie Somsen from Lintelo.



Threshing team at Fukkinks Timpken in 2013 with at the lower-left corner Bennie Somsen with his brother Henk Somsen

Tractor Festival

by Oscar Somsen [2040]

Wim Wisselink, also known as 'Plaetjes Willem' tells: *"In the past everything was used. Straw was used as feed or as bedding in stables. The chaff, casing of the seeds, was used to fill pillows or it was used in the nests of hens. The seeds were used to make oatmeal. It is the intention to revive the engagement, the conviviality and sociability of former times and to show the craft from grain to bread".*

The hard workers were offered delicious pancakes with coffee for lunch.

"In the past thrashing brought the entire neighbourhood together, it was a friendly and cosy party. Of course people had to work hard but the social aspect, being together, was also very



Bags with threshed grain on the flat car

important. Now it is pure nostalgia for the elderly amongus, we have a lot of fun getting back the old times and demonstrate threshing, "said Wisselink. On the harmonica the songs from days gone bywere sounded.

In spring the oats had already been sown on 'Fukkinks Timpken', also in the old-fashioned way with a strong Belgian horse.

At the beginning of August the oats were mown and bound in the old-fashioned way with many interested visitors present. The Belgian horses did their utmost again and ladies, complete with traditional bonnets, bound the sheaves of oats. To complete this nostalgic happeningthe oats were threshed on the last Saturday of September.

At the back a pen drawing of the threshing machine of Bennie Somsen made by Herman Peppelman.

For those of us living elsewhere in the Netherlands, the yearly family weekend is a good opportunity to look around in the Achterhoek. On Saturday August 22, 2015 we visited a friend and heard that a Tractor festival was being held in the small town of Lievelede.



Entrance to the Festival Hall

We had some trouble finding it on the map but finally noticed that it was just north of the town of Lichtenvoorde. A thirty-minute drive took us through the fields and past the farms of this beautiful part of the country. Upon arriving in Lievelede we soon noticed a huge tractor in one of the tiny streets. So, better park our car and walk in this general direction. We noticed families that had brought their chairs to the sidewalk and were sitting there and enjoying what was happening.

A little further on a small que of tractors was waiting near a business area and as we approached many more were on the terrain itself.



Participants Starting on their Tractor Star Ride

Actually we still had no idea what was going on. Fortunately many viewers were standing by the side of the street so we asked them. They told



The Pedal Tractor Contest Participant

us that 'the ride' would start at 14.00. Fortunately we had arrived just 30 minutes before that time. A short while later some beautiful ladies passed by handing us tiny program leaflets which told us about the "Tractor Star Ride Lievelede". In the meantime rock songs from local bands were coming from the speakers with beautiful stories about the farmer's lives and parties. A small quadcopter was flying to and fro, filming the tractors and the audience. Some combines slowly passed through the audience. We had no idea whether they might be part of the festival but later on we saw them mowing a nearby field.

When the time was there someone took a microphone somewhere and started welcoming the audience and the participants and asked the latter to gather near. Soon we found out that he was standing near to us and near the entrance of the terrain. He told us a little about the history of the ride and urged the participants to be careful and asked the first ones to fire up there machines. Soon the chairman of the committee passed through the gate on an old tractor with the number 1 attached on piece of paper and was greeted by a rain of confetti. The other participants soon followed. Some 150 tractors. Some nicely cleaned and painted and some looking as if they just came from the field. Some new and huge (at some point we stood back

because it looked like some tractors with wheels bigger than us might hit us while turning) and some very old and tiny.

The speaker clearly knew most of the participants as well as the old and new tractor types and told something nice about all of them.

The participants were a mixed lot as well. Some big fellows sitting proudly on an old timer smoking a fat cigar, some young guys and farmers with their partners just enjoying the ride and some students who, as the speaker confirmed, never drive a tractor in their daily lives. Quite a lot of girls and women had no problem handling the big machines as well. The speaker had some special attention for the committee member who helped to organize the festival which turned out to be quite young. A pleasant surprise to find such youthful enthusiasm.

After a short while all the tractors had left the gate and where on their way for a ride through the nearby land and towns. The speaker told us that where we might find them on the way and



also informed us that after the finish there would be a pulling race and a beauty contest for toy pedal tractors as well as a tractor ball with great bands in the evening. We thought it would be nice to have a look at the festival terrain. Inside, the factory hall was converted, with the help of fences, plastic and other framing equipment into a concert hall, complete with decorations, bar, cloak room and indoor/outdoor rental toilets. We had a nice coffee with complementary 'krentewegge'. After that we were on our way again to our own family festivities. Glad to have another taste of the Achterhoek festival life.

A Somsen from Aalten in wartime, 1940 - 1945

by Dick Somsen [130]

A forwarded email from Mrs Spanier to the Secretariat of SomsenFoundation was the beginning of my research into what took place during the Second World War in Amsterdam.

Sera Spanier begins her mail of 22 May 2014 as follows:

By an employee of the city archive in Deventer my attention was drawn to your website.

It is about the following: Hennie Somsen's father was involved in the food supply of my family, the Zendijkfamily, who were in hiding in Amsterdam from January 1943 until May 1945 with six persons. Mr Somsen was branch manager of Simon de Wit (a grocer's store) in Amsterdam and he was born in Aalten in 1906. Before this family moved to Amsterdam Mr Somsen was branch manager of Simon de Wit in the Korte Bisschopstraat in Deventer. He and his wife also had a son Gerard, born in 1935 and who died in 2010. This is what I heard this afternoon from the employee of the city archive in Deventer.

In 2006 I wrote a book entitled "Het Gesluisde Licht" (the veiled light) which was published at Gopher Publishing House in Amsterdam, see www.gopher.nl

In it I stated the help that Mr Somsen gave to my family in Amsterdam. Currently I am doing further research into the food supply for the people in hiding during the Second World War and maybe Hennie Somsen, his daughter, remembers something from this period and she might help me. I estimate that Hennie is now about 75 years old. In the 1960s she married in America and that is all I know about her. Could you give me any possible help?

Thank you very much In advance, sincerely,

Sera Spanier.

It was not an easy research and I had to look around in Europe and beyond. The main thing is the fact that finding out the truth was the only purpose of my research into the history that tur-

ned out to be so fatal for thousands of Jewish compatriots. Mrs Spanier's family has survived World War II also thanks to the efforts of a member of the Somsen family and Mrs Spanier has saved the history of her family and that of our family member from oblivion, which is very important. Read and reread this contribution so that those who preceded us **will not be forgotten**.



Hogestraat 44 Aalten

Gerhardus Arnoldus [165] was born on Tuesday, 21 May 1907 as the third child of blacksmith Gerhardus Arnoldus Somsen [21] and Dora Willemina Gerharda (Dora) Lammers [162] born in the Aalten Hogestraat number 44.

He married Hilligjen Paas [170] in Nieuw Amsterdam on 8 April 1933 and at the outbreak of World War II he was working as manager of the grocery chain Simon de Wit in Deventer and after serving he was transferred to an Amsterdam store of Simon de Wit in Maasstreet.

He was a valued buyer of the products of the cold meats and sausage factory Hoy in Twello, owned and run by the Jewish Zendijkfamily. Moses Aron Zendijk was on the board of slaughterhouse Zendijk in Twello and he lived at the Singel 2 in Deventer. In the course of 1941/42 more and more restrictions were imposed on the Jewish inhabitants by the German occupying forces including the hated Jewish star that had to be worn visibly on the clothes.



Singel 2 Deventer

Son Sallo Zendijk, initially also employed with his father Moos in Twello, soon became a salesman for the sale of JAMIE (combination of the first names of the De

Visscher family) beef cubes to the customers of Hoy from Twello for the Jan de Visscher firm from Amsterdam. In an attempt to survive the war and the persecution of the Jews Sallo decided to flee to neutral Switzerland with his cousin Max. In Maastricht things went wrong. There he tried to get the necessary papers for their flight with the help of the Dutch underground fighters. Unfortunately, he was recognized by a collaborator from Deventer who followed him to the guesthouse where he stayed with Max. An arrest followed and Sallo was put on the train to Westerbork. On the way to Westerbork this train stopped at the station in Deventer and Sallo came past his family home at the Singel, not far from the railroad, for the last time. After a short stay in Westerbork he went to the concentration camp Gross Rosen on 10 November 1942.



Sallo Zendijk

Gross-Rosen was a concentration camp located south of the village of Rogoznica in Lower Silesia. The camp was founded in the summer of 1940 as a satellite camp of the concentration camp Sachsenhausen. On 1 May 1941 Gross-Rosen became an independent camp. Until February 1945

125,000 people were put there; 40,000 of them were killed.

Sallo was still young and strong and had a lot of perseverance when he arrived in the camp. He survived until 7 February 1945. Then he finally died at the age of 23 of cold, weakness and exhaustion during one of many killing marches near Gross-Rosen, Rogoznica, Poland.

After Sallo's departure from Deventer the Deventer police were also looking for Sallo. In the General Police Journal number 38 of 24 September 1942 the chief constable in Deventer asked to trace and arrest Sallo Zendijk. He was suspected of having changed his residence without having obtained the necessary authorisation. With this description Jews that were in hiding were indicated.

Once Jan de Visscher asked (Moos) Zendijk in 1942: *"Mister Zendijk why do you sit and wait here with your family for your destiny, why don't you go into hiding?"* After some discussion and

consult with his wife Mies Jan de Visscher said: *"Well, then you guys come and stay with us!"*. So the family moved, father Moos Zendijk and mother Sara, daughters Ina, Roza and Sybilla and Aunt Mina Sanders, an aunt of Sara Zendijk, who had fled from Germany in January 1943. After a tip from a friendly police inspector in Deventer they went to 289 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam. However, for them it was no removal but an anxious flight from Deventer and the company in Twello.



Husband and wife Zendijk-de Wijze (Mozes and Sara)

Sera Spanier, Roza Zendijk's daughter, writes in her book: *"Het Gesluisde Licht"* about the adventures of her family in the hiding place in Amsterdam: (quote)

"Mr Somsen, who formerly had been manager of the branch of Simon de Wit in Deventer, a big client of my grandfather as far as meats and sausages were concerned, was now branch manager of a Simon de Wit store in Amsterdam. He and his wife were reliable people who illegally tried to deliver food for people in hiding."

And further: (quote)

"Also the people in hiding suffered from hunger, cold and starvation edema. At the end of April 1945 the food droppings were received by them with exceeding joy. Thanks to the intervention of Mr Somsen, manager of Simon de Wit, they could get a decent share of especially biscuits and chocolate, later followed by eggs, corned beef and flour."



Simon de Wit store Amsterdam

After two years and 4 months Holland was liberated on 5 May 1945 to their great delight The



Shop interior

picture below shows them all at a festive table. It was taken by Gerhardus Arnoldus Somsen [165], who, risking his own life, helped the people at the Prinsengracht to survive. A form of practical charity which we will never forget. The American-based daughter of Gerhardus Arnoldus Hilligjen, Henny Cross-Somsen [172],



Liberation Day, 5 May 1945 in the back of the house at Prinsengracht 289 in Amsterdam.

From left to right: Ina Zendijk, Hilligjen Somsen-Paas [170], Mina Sanders, Roza Zendijk, Sybilla Zendijk, Henny Somsen [172] on Mozes Aron Zendijk's lap, Gerard Somsen [171], Sara Zendijk-de Wijze.

born in 1939, remembers this period as follows: "My father was manager at Simon de Wit in Deventer when the war broke out. He was called up in military service and eventually ended up at a farm in the west of The Netherlands. After a while he came home safe and sound and was then transferred to Amsterdam in a store at the Maasstreet. Mr de Wit trusted my father and asked him to provide the Zendijk family with food."

"The Zendijk family was hiding in Amsterdam at the home of Mr and Mrs de Visscher. Mr de

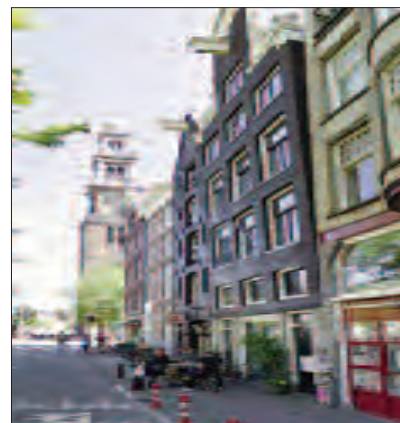
Visscher was disabled and never went out. He was a silversmith and I still have a silver water-mark chain. Father regularly went to the Zendijk family and occasionally we went with him. As a child I never knew where the address was but a few years ago when I was in Amsterdam at the Westerkerk and when I heard the chimes I remembered that the Zendijk family lived near this Westerkerk. I asked my brother Gerard [171], born 1935, if he knew the address and he told me it was on the Prinsengracht. It turned out that they lived on the other side of the Westerkerk near the Anne Frank House."



Gerhardus Arnoldus Somsen [165]

"The Zendijk family who were in hiding at the Prinsengracht came through the war safely. Only a son who wanted to flee to neutral Switzerland with his cousin was killed in the war.

During the war my parents had a group of 5 or 6 neighbours. They called themselves the Club of Light and Dark. They regularly came together and they had taught me a song about the Germans that I always had to sing to their



Prinsengracht 289 Amsterdam

pleasure.

Mother helped little in the shop but she cooked pans full of beans and the neighbours came along in the evenings with a dish to pick up some of it.

After the hunger winter, from early 1945, mother helped with the distribution of food from Sweden. I can still remember the food droppings with parachutes. That made quite an impression on me. I am proud of my parents who presumably helped many more people."

And what happened with a number of people mentioned in this story:

Gerhardus Arnoldus Somsen [165] died on Tuesday 5 October 1976 in Aalten, 69 years old. His wife Hilligjen Paas [170] died on Thursday 6 December 1984 in Winterswijk, 81 years old.



G. A. Somsen [165]



Hilligjen Paas [170]

Mozes Aron Zendijk, born 10-09-1887 in Olst, died in Deventer on 23 July 1954, 66 years old. He was married to Sara de Wijze in Nijmegen on 28-08-1918. Sara was born in Beugen en Rijkevoort on 09-09-1893 and died in Deventer on 20 February 1960, 66 years old.

Children from this marriage:

1. Gesina (Ina) Zendijk, born July 1919 died in Deventer on 10 September 1969 in Deventer, 50 years old. She was married to Lou van Dam † 1997.

2. Sallo Zendijk, born 28-02-1921 in Deventer, died on 07-02-1945 in Gross Rosen.

3. Rosa Sybilla Zendijk, born 14-03-1926 in Deventer. Separated from Heinz Spanier († 19-05-1993). She died on 19-11-2002 in Venlo, 76 years old.

4. Sybil Josephina Zendijk, born 30-11-1933, married Leo Friedler in 1954, left for England. They celebrated their golden wedding in 2004, they have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. Sybilla Josephina Friedler-Zendijk died on September 14, 2011 at the age of 77.

Aunt Mina Sanders died on October 7, 1959 in

Oakland, CA. USA, 93 years old.

Sources:



- Het gesluerde licht”, author Sera Spanier, ISBN 9789051794427, ed. Gopher BV, Amsterdam

- Family tree Zendijk family Olst / Deventer

- Joannet van Engeland, France. Her

parents were close friends of the Somsen family in Amsterdam

- Henny Cross-Somsen [172], USA, daughter of Gerhardus and Hilligjen Somsen-Paas

Thanks to:

Sera Spanier

Joannet van Engeland

Henny Cross-Somsen

Harry Somsen[146]

Granddaughters to be proud: Bente and Hedda

by Corry [439] and Ben [438] Somsen-Houps

Bente Somsen [2847], is a student at the Technical University of Eindhoven. She is a third year bachelor student in training to become a biomedical engineer.

Biomedical Technology aims to improve medical care by means of the technical knowledge of an engineer. Knowledge about physics, modelling, regenerative medicine, biology and chemistry make the development of knowledge about diseases and better care possible. Biomedical engineers can ensure the development of techniques that allow for better diagno-



Bente Somsen [2847]

sis and treatment methods, for example, whereby the patient can be treated in a more targeted way.

An important part of the study are the subjects in organic chemistry including research into molecular interaction between oestrogen receptor and possible proteins that can block this receptor. This could possibly serve as new drug against breast cancer.

On 21 September 2015 Bente along with 5 other students was surprised with the Sixma



Sixma Organische Chemie Prijs 2015

Organic Chemistry Prize 2015 for her excellent results in these organic chemistry courses.

This prize is awarded annually to students of the Faculty of Chemical Technology and Biomedical Technology of the Technical University of Eindhoven who have obtained outstanding results in the compulsory subjects in organic chemistry. This prize is seen as an incentive to further deepening in the field.

Hedda Somsen [2848] is a student at the University of Groningen. She is a third year bachelor student in Life Science and Technology (LS&T).



Hedda Somsen [2848]

LS&T combines elements of several studies, such as biology, pharmacy, physics, chemistry and technology. You will learn how you can use this knowledge for medical applications to make people healthier and to improve the quality of life with these new insights.

Within LS&T she has focused on the specialization of molecular life science. This area looks at the chemistry in biology. As part of this study she did an internship of half a year at a high school in Veendam where she got a teaching qualification for a 2nd-degree chemistry teacher.

She is an active member of the General



The logo of a.s.v. DIZKARTES

Student Association Dizkartes and Chairman of the Almanac Committee '14-'15. Under her leadership this Almanac was published with the year theme "unlimited", meant to show the infinite possibilities of studying. This Almanac contains a lot of information about the study opportunities as well as information about student life at the University.



Gala party

The A.S.V. Dizkartes had existed for 25 years in 2015. A large 9-day party was organised for its members. The closure of this anniversary was a gala party organised by a Committee headed by Hedda (in the middle). The day began at the hairdresser's and with collecting the corsages. Then there was a grand three-course dinner for 100 people. Subsequently the evening was celebrated with 800 people as a beautiful rounding off of the anniversary. We have intensively experienced these events and are very proud of our granddaughters, children of Oscar [2040] and Yeng [2042] Somsen-Nacion.

Roelof Somsen [300] (1808-1891) received a distinction in 1832

by Harry Somsen [146]

This spring Harry Somsen [146] went to Roel [982] and Erna Somsen [1056] in Bredevoort to watch a distinction. His ancestor Roelof Somsen [300] had received this distinction for his participation in the defence of the Citadel of Antwerp. A year earlier he also fought in the 10-day campaign against the Belgians from 2 to 13 August 1831. The participating soldiers got the Metal Cross, consisting of 2 small medals made of the bronze of five canons that were captured near Hasselt. Unfortunately these medals got lost.



Bronze medal

The image on the bronze medal (diameter: 5.1 cm) shows a Greek warrior with a shield in the left hand and a broken sword on top of a pile of debris in the right hand. On the edge the inscription: Whatever falls, loyalty stands firm, Antwerp, December MDCCCXXXII. On the other side there is the engraving: R. SOMSEN in a laurel wreath.

The 10-day campaign under the command of the future King William II of The Netherlands was a campaign to suppress the Belgian uprising with the use of arms. Although the plan succeeded Belgium obtained its sovereignty through the intervention of French soldiers.



10-day campaign

After this intervention the army of William I kept control the city of Antwerp. From the Citadel of Antwerp, built between 1567 and 1572 by order of the Duke of Alva, Spanish Governor of the Netherlands, the Dutch General Chassé fired at the city with glowing bullets for hours. This was a reason for the French, led by Marshal Gérard, to besiege the Citadel from 15 November 1832. On 23 December 1832 they forced the 4500 Dutch soldiers, including Roelof Somsen [300], to surrender. For his participation Roelof received a bronze medal as a homage to the defenders of the Citadel of Antwerp in December 1832.



Siege of the citadel by French troops

This distinction was handed out to all men who had taken part in the defence and it had come in the possession of non-Somsen families through inheritances. The family that had the medal in possession, the Te Hennepe family from Aalten, got in touch with Dick Somsen the genealogist in the family with the question how to act. They felt that the penny had to be returned to a descendant in the Somsen family. After contacts with each other it was decided to hand over the medal to a Somsen bearing the name of Roelof. There were discussions about it and the only living Roelof Somsen [982] in Bredevoort indicated that his father had made him aware of the medal. He would appreciate it very much to receive this medal as a memento to his namesake Roelof Somsen who had lived more than 180 years earlier.

The handing-over by Bennie te Hennepe [7762] and Willemien te Hennepe [7737] of this distinction in August 2015 took place in the house of Roelof (Roel) Somsen and his wife Erna



Bennie te Hennepe handing over the medal to Roel Somsen

Lammers [1056] in Bredevoort. It was a happy event for both families to bring the medal to the right place within the Somsen family. We appreciate it to share this with the readers of Somsen Horizon.

Father is waiting at Schiphol for his son on his last flight

by Harry Somsen [146]

On Saturday 21 May 2016 Maarten Somsen [131], former KLM commercial pilot and currently residing in Spain, welcomed his son Derk Jan Somsen [154], who followed in the footsteps of his father, at Schiphol at his last flight as a captain on the KLM Boeing 777. It was Derk Jan's great desire that his father Maarten would give the "braking" symbol as marshall.



Maarten Somsen

Ingrid de Boer [1126], Derk Jan Somsen's wife accompanied him on his last flight. Derk Jan started his career in 1981 at KLM as a steward and climbed to captain in 35 years.

Derk Jan's farewell was recorded on video. The feeling of farewell that Derk Jan was going through was familiar for his father Maarten. For both it was an emotional goodbye.



Derk Jan Somsen and Maarten Somsen

Derk Jan is not the last KLM captain in the Somsen family.

We find more Somsens in the magazine "Luchtvaartnieuws.nl".

On the Youtube channel of Schiphol (www.youtube.com/schiphol) you will find informative and surprising videos about the daily life at Schiphol..



Derk Jan and Maarten near the Boeing 777

Below the URL of the video for those who are interested:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h77gpgn7aQE&sns=em>



Somsen-Lenselink couple married for 60 years

adapted by Harry Somsen [146]

pictures by Harry ten Klooster

Derk Jan Somsen (Dick) [130] and Dirkje (Dikky) Lenselink [133] weremarried for 60 years on Monday 21 December 2015. Alderman Nelleke Vedelaar paid the couple a visit in their home at Monteverdilaan in the afternoon to congratulate them. They got the book "Zwolle years later" by Joop van Putten as a present.



Presentation of the book "Zwolle years later"

Derk Jan Somsen was born in Hellevoetsluis in 1929 as the eldest son of Derk Jan Somsen [125], who was a draper, and Maria van Hooionk [129]. Via Nieuw-Helvoet, Katwijk aan Zee, Leiden and Aalten twice he settled in Vorden with his parents on 17 April 1940. After his military service in 1950 he started as a technical salesman at an electrical trading company: Brinkman & Germeraad in Velp. In 1952 he was transferred to Enschede as a manager of an electrical wholesale business.

Dikky Lenselink was born in Vorden in 1930 as the youngest daughter of the alderman and deputy mayor and she lived there until 1950. Then she left for Amsterdam to be trained as a family helper. She first worked in Warnsveld and from 1953 in Enschede. In February 1949 she started dating Dick Somsen who lived in Vorden at that time. She had met him through church and youth work.

After six years of courtship they married in Vorden on 21 December 1955. Since Dick worked in Enschede and because there was a housing shortage they bought an oak caravan from an Enschede textile manufacturer, Nico Jan ter Kuile, and they settled in the wooded outskirts of

Enschede. There they got two daughters, Marianne [134] and Tineke [135]. The living space became too narrow and they moved into a house in Noordoostpolder Street in a new residential area of Enschede in 1960. Here their son Dirk [136] was born. They have three children and seven grandchildren. And in February the first great-grandchild is expected.

Next to her hobbies, reading and puzzling, Dikky performed several positions on the board of NCVB (later Passage) in Enschede for years. Next to his hobbies, sailing and exploring beautiful Europe with his caravan, Dick has another hobby: playing the organ. He was allowed to play the church organ in Vorden by his organ teacher when he was only 13. From 1953 he played the church organ with great pleasure in Enschede and from 1993 to 2013 in Wapenveld. Currently Dick is substitute organist in Het Zonnehuis in Zwolle.



Wedding picture of 1955



Dick and Dikky with children and grandchildren

After his retirement they moved to Zwolle because they have had a summer cottage in Grafhorst since 1969 and they wanted to live closer to it. Since that time Dick and Dikky have been doing research together into their respective family trees.

We also know Dick as co-author of the book *Somsen Omnes Generationes* which he wrote together with Theo Somsen [227] and which was

published at the first World Wide Somsen Reunion in 1997. Especially the Somsen genealogy requires much attention and time since Dick keeps the genealogy up-to-date for the Somsen Foundation.

Considering his age Dick's health leaves nothing to be desired and he hopes that this can remain so for a long time. Dikky's health has been a bit poorer for the past few years.

Ben Somsen: unforgettable

by Theo Somsen [227]



Ben Somsen [396]

It was a sunny day when we attended the service to commemorate the life of Ben Somsen (1931-2016) in the full and charming ancient medieval

church of Eibergen on 14 March 2016. And however sad it was gratitude dominated.

Of course it was stressed how beloved Ben was as a husband, father and grandfather. His eldest son Derk expressed this with an overview of the life of his father with this passage: *Ben was a perfectionist, he was very creative, a caring father with a good sense of humor. He was also a handsome man with beautiful black hair. As brothers we could feel quite well that the relationship between Ben and Hannie was very close.*

They were really buddies, also in difficult times. Something which is very good to experience as children.



'Secured in God's love'

Ben enjoyed a healthy, beautiful and rich life in spite of a number of difficult business years. In 1999, he underwent a successful heart surgery, which, however, led to a more careful life. After a new, necessary operation in 2013 complications followed, which culminated in a partial paralysis. Although he still wanted to do so many things he actually could not do anything at all anymore.

His suffering from life began and those who loved Ben suffered with him. And as his son Derk said: *"the Saturday before his death he could personally say goodbye to us. That was beautiful. In the end it was in the night of 8 March at 02.10 that Ben breathed his last and went towards heaven. As a family we have become reconciled with this. Dear Ben, you have your well-deserved rest. Peace ..., rest in peace."*

Also our Somsen Family Foundation will miss Ben Somsen because what a truly unique and fantastic contribution he has provided!

Prior to the cremation our chairman Johan Somsen expressed this with the following words: *"Those who were present in Erve Kots in Lievelede on that sweltering summer day in 1997 where we had our first Worldwide Somsen Reunion will no doubt remember the presentation of the beautiful film 'Somsen Panorama'. One of the many creations in the area of film and photography of Ben Somsen."*

Johan also outlined what that reunion brought about: *"It was an extraordinary experience in the months leading up to the first Somsen reunion to suddenly come face to face with people who bore your surname without having been aware of their existence before. But in the last 20 years a special family bond and friendship with some "distant" cousins has developed and that was certainly the case with Ben. To the outside world we have always distinguished ourselves as cousins even though our first common ancestor was Lubbert Somsen from 1722."*

Johan also recalled Ben's continued commitment when after that first Worldwide Reunion in 1997 the Somsen Family Foundation was created: *"We could always call upon him and that was never of no avail. The many versions of the beautiful Somsen logos, stickers and buttons he designed I cherish very much. In the past they also adorned my cars but now the supply is low and I love them so much that I no longer want to expose them to weather and wind."*

Our Somsen Foundation really owes a lot to Ben Somsen: dedication, commitment, inventiveness, and humor and ... his friendship."

The friendship between Ben and me arose during the preparations for the first Worldwide Reunion and became ever closer and more intimate. I also suffered when I realised that Ben had to give up hope for recovery and finally longed for it to be taken home."

Family announcements

In this column we would like to draw your attention to the family announcements that have reached us. We are very much pleased to present them to you and are grateful to everybody who took the trouble to inform us about the merry and sad events in their and our family. This also enables our advisor Dick Somsen from Zwolle to keep our genealogical files up-to-date, so that we, in turn, can inform you in Somsen Horizon.

We really appreciate it very much that you send in your family announcements (together with pictures please)

Born:

- 10-09-2015:** Lilyanne Alise [7929], d.o. Robert Jeremy Adamson [3624] and Tamra Lutz [7854]
27-10-2015: Chloe Olivia [7930], d.o. Glenn Taylor Allred [7871] and Mindy Sue Adamson [3628]
28-01-2016: Jenna Kensi [7934], d.o. Richard van der List [5758] and Adrie van Dijk [185]
04-03-2016: Tesslynn Saige [7931] d.o. Michael Chase Lavery [7289] and Marcy Lea Adamson [3627]



Lilyanne
Alise



Chloe
Olivia



Jenna
Kensi



Tesslynn
Saige

Married: no entries

Deceased:

- 30-10-2015:** Geertruida Wilhelmina (Truus) Diersen [7397], 78, Dinxperlo
09-05-2016: Richard Hyslin [7932], 77, McAllen, TX. USA



Geertruida
Wilhelmina



Richard



A pen drawing of the threshing machine of Bennie Somsen made by Herman Peppelman